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**COUPLE INDICTED FOR CONSPIRACY TO DEFRAUD
THE GOVERNMENT AND EVADE INCOME TAXES**

Today, Patricia O'Connor, age 56, of Angelica, New York, previously charged by a federal grand jury with Attempting to Evade Income Taxes and Conspiracy To Defraud the United States, and her husband, Richard R. Drachenberg, age 55, also of Angelica, New York, with Conspiracy to Defraud the United States, were arraigned in Federal Court, announced U.S. Attorney Terrance P. Flynn of the Western District of New York. The charges carry a maximum penalty of 5 years imprisonment, a fine of \$250,000, or both.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Robert C. Moscati stated that the Indictment charges the defendants with devising a scheme to conceal income earned by Patricia O'Connor and thus avoid the payment of income taxes. O'Connor directed that payments for her personal consulting services be made to a sham business entity with a post office box opened by Drachenberg. Drachenberg then deposited such payments into a bank account in the business name and later drew funds from this account through checks and ATM withdrawals. Neither O'Connor, Drachenberg, nor the nominal business entity ever filed a federal tax return over a five year period, from 2000 to 2004, during which O'Connor is alleged to have earned over \$327,000.

The Indictment was the culmination of an investigation on the part of Special Agents of the United States Treasury, Internal Revenue Service, Criminal Investigations, under the direction of Special Agent in Charge Anne Marie Coons. The evidence was presented to the Grand Jury by Assistant U.S. Attorney Moscati, who will handle the trial of the case.

The fact that a defendant has been charged with a crime is merely an accusation and the defendant is presumed innocent until and unless proven guilty.